

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 OC-05 CCO-00 IO-11 DHA-02 ORM-02 /083 W

----- 062420

R 280505Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3861

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 0917

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, SN

SUBJECT: CURRENT STATE OF PAK-BD RELATIONS

1. EMBOFF JANUARY 27 MET WITH MFA DIRECTOR (BANGLADESH) AZMAT HASSAN TO REVIEW THE CURRENT STATE OF PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS. ACCORVING TO HASSANEGN THINGS ARE GENERALLY WHERE THE PAKS HAD HOPED THEY WOULD BE AT THIS STAGE OF THE GAME FOLLOWING THE RECENT EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS. TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

2. COMMUNICATION LINKS: PAIR DISCUSSED RECENT PAK PRESS REPORTS THAT PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH WILL FORMALLY CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON RESTORATION OF COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN A WEEK. HASSAN SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THAT WITHIN A FEW DAYS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS WOULD BE RESTORED. RESTORATION COULD COME EITHER UNDER EXISTING INTER-NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENTS OR, POSSIBLY, BI-LATERALLY. BOTH SIDES, HASSAN SAID, ARE ALSO EXPLORING RESTORATION OF POSTAL LINKS, WHICH COULD INITIALLY INVOLVE AIRMAIL SENT THROUGH BANGKOK. LATER, FOLLOWING RESTORATION OF SHIPPING TIES, SURFACE MAIL

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CAN GO DIRECT BY SEA. CURRENTLY, NO TALKS WITH THE

INDIANS RE OVERLAND MAIL TO DACCA ARE BEING CONSIDERED.
HASSA
SAID THESE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR AN IMPROVEMENT
IN RELATIONS WITH GOI.

3. TRADE: RECENT PRESS REPORTS, INCLUDING KARACHI DAWN
JANUARY 26, WHICH DISCUSS COMMUNICATION LINKS ALSO REPORT
THAT TRADE TALKS BETWEEN TWO SIDES ARE EXPECTED IN
MID-FEBRUARY. THESE, HASSAN DISMISSED AS TOTALLY
SPECULATIVE SAYING THAT HE KNEW OF NO ACTIVE PLANS FOR
EITHER SENDING OR RECEIVING TRADE DELEGATIONS. HE
REPEATED WHAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD US, THAT FIRST PRIORITY
IN PAK-BD RELATIONS IS RESTORATION OF COMMUNICATIONS
FOLLOWING WHICH TRADE TALKS CAN FOLLOW IN DUE COURSE.

4. VISAS: AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT SIDES DO GET
DOWN TO DISCUSSING TRADE, THEY WILL, ACCORDING TO HASSAN,
DISCUSS ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO ONE ANOTHER'S NATIONALS.
HE SAID ABOUT 50 TO 100 BENGALIS A MONTH VISIT PAKISTAN
WHO ARE ISSUED VISAS ON ARRIVAL IN KARACHI AFTER THE
GOP HAS GRANTED PERMISSION THROUGH THE SWISS IN DACCA.

5. INVITATIONS: HASSAN SAID THAT THE ARTICLE IN
JANUARY 27 VERNACULAR DAILY JANG THAT THE BENGALIS
HAVE ISSUED INVITATIONS TO PAK PRESIDENT CHAUDHRY AND
PM BHUTTO TO VISIT DACCA WAS PURELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION
AS WAS REPORT THAT PAKS HAD LIKEWISE INVITED PRESIDENT
SAYEM TO VISIT HERE.

6. BIHARIS: HASSAN CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE OF FEW HUNDRED
BIHARIS WHO, ICRC REPRESENTATIVE HERE CLAIMS, HAVE
ENTERED PAKISTAN ON OWN IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR
WITH APPARENT TACIT APPROVAL OF GOP. CONCERNING BIHARIS
IN GENERAL, HASSAN SAID THAT THIS ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED
SOMETIME AFTER TRADE AND TRAVEL TALKS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED.

7. BANGLADESH EMBASSY: BANGLADESH MISSION HOPES TO MOVE
TO ISLAMABAD FROM THEIR CURRENT (AND EXPENSIVE) QUARTERS
AT RAWALPINDI INTERCONTINENTAL WITHIN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS,
HASSAN SAID. EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY MOHAMMAD CHAUDHARY
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ARRIVED LAST WEEK AND ANOTHER SECOND SECRETARY IS EXPECTED
SOON.
BYROADE

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